Committee on facilitation

250. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Civil Aviation has suggested for creation of a Standing Committee on Facilitation under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to improve the inter-agency functioning;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has recommended for doing away with the immigration checks for incoming Indians and outgoing foreigners; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposals to set up a Facilitation Committee under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, improvements in immigration procedure for incoming and outgoing passengers are under consideration. These proposals have been formulated with a view to streamline the facilitation procedures at airports.

Election to Board of IATA

251. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International Air Transportation Association (IATA) held its AGM at Singapore in June, 2004;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CMD of Air India failed to get elected/ nominated as one of the Governors on the Board of IATA in the election;

(c) whether Government are aware that nominee of Jet Airways has instead been elected/nominated on the Board of IATA; and

(d) if so, to what extent the interests of National Carriers *viz.* Indian Airline and Air India are likely to be adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The interests of Air India and Indian Airlines are not likely to be affected as Board of Governors of IATA addresses issues at a global level and do not interfare with the Government policies of any country.